IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note, all claims are presented below for clarity. Please cancel claims 30-36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Amended twice) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for reducing an unwanted T-cell response in a host, comprising:

E1

culturing peripheral blood monocytes from said host to differentiate into dendritic cells;

activating said dendritic cells in the presence of [a glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell; and

loading said dendritic cells with an antigen against which said T-cell response is to be reduced.

Claims 2 through 4. (Previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

5. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, wherein activating said dendritic cells in the presence of [a glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell comprises activating said dendritic cells through a CD40 receptor.

E2

6. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein activating said dendritic cells through a CD40 receptor involves incubation of the dendritic cells with a substance selected from a group consisting of a CD8-40L fusion protein, a trimeric form of CD40L consisting of CD40L molecules to which a modified leucine zipper has been attached, anti-CD40 antibodies, and cells that express CD40L.

Claims 7 and 8. (Previously withdrawn and canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

E4

9. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, further comprising incubating said dendritic cells with at least one peptide representing at least one antigen of interest before activating said dendritic cells in the presence of [a glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell.

10. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, further comprising incubating said dendritic cells with cells containing at least one antigen of interest before activating said dendritic cells in the presence of [a glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell.

11. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, wherein loading said dendritic cells with an antigen against which said T-cell response is to be reduced comprises loading said dendritic cells with at least one synthetic peptide representing at least one antigen of interest after activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a [glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell.

E4

12. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 1, wherein activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a [glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell comprises activating said dendritic cells such that said dendritic cells secrete interleukin-10.

13. (Amended twice) A method for obtaining a dendritic cell capable of [tolerising] tolerizing a T-cell for an antigen, comprising:

providing said dendritic cell with a [glucocorticoid hormone] means for causing said dendritic cell to secrete IL-10;

activating said dendritic cell; and

providing said dendritic cell with said antigen.

14. (Amended twice) The method according to claim 13, wherein providing said dendritic cell with means for causing said said dendritic cell to secrete IL-10 [a glucocorticoid hormone] comprises providing said dendritic cell with said [glucocorticoid hormone]] means for causing said said dendritic cell to secrete IL-10 in vitro.

E4

15. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said T-cell is a T-helper cell.

Claims 16 through 27. (Previously withdrawn and canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

28. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising incubating said dendritic cells with cell homogenate containing at least one antigen of interest before activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a [glucocorticoid hormone] means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell.

E5

29. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein providing said dendritic cell with a means for causing said said dendritic cell to secrete IL-10 [glucocorticoid hormone] comprises providing a precursor of said dendritic cell with said [glucocorticoid hormone] means for causing said said dendritic cell to secrete IL-10 in vitro.

Please cancel claims 30 through 36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

37. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein activating said dendritic cells through a CD40 receptor involves incubation of the dendritic cells with a substance selected from the group consisting of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and polyI/C.

E6

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said means for reducing IL-12p40 production by said dendritic cell comprises dexamethasone.

39. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said means for causing said said dendritic cell to secrete IL-10 comprises dexamethasone.